

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE
November 7, 2013

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jeri Dilno
Mick Hager
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
David Kinney
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Don Liddell
Michael McDowell
Minnie Rzeslawski
Michael Singleton
David Strickland

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2013

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STEPPKE/MR. HAGER

A motion was made by Rob Steppke and seconded by Dr. Mick Hager, to approve the October 3, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (5-0-1), with Dilno abstaining.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Parking Lot Structure in Balboa Park

Mr. John W. Stump stated he wrote a letter to the Committee dated October 7, 2013, and didn't see a receipt of correspondence in the October agenda or minutes. Mr. Stump provided a copy of his letter to the Committee, stating concerns about the proposal to construct a six-story private purpose employee parking lot on approximately one acre of undeveloped Balboa Park land.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chairperson Kinney announced that reappointments for Committee members are in the works. He stated Dr. Hager has been an extremely valuable player and the committee greatly values his service.

STAFF REPORT

City Council Third District – Mr. Steve Hill

- Thanked committee members for their assistance with a contest to help get people to sign up for Council President and Interim Mayor Gloria's email distribution list. Mr. Hill won the competition.
- Appointments and reappoints to the BPC will convene at Council on November 21, 2013.

Balboa Park Committee

November 7, 2013

Page 2

- Mr. Hill thanked Dr. Hager and Ms. Rzeslawski for their service to the Committee.
- Council President and Interim Mayor Gloria joined the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership and its partners in announcing that additional buildings in the Park will be added to the LEED Certification goal.

Comments/Questions from Members:

Chairperson Kinney acknowledged the presence of Stacey LoMedico, former Park and Recreation Director, has been appointed as the new Assistant COO for the City of San Diego.

- Stacey did an outstanding job for Balboa Park and totally changed the culture of the Park and Recreation Department.
- The Committee will send her a letter of appreciation, thanking her for a job well done.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events District Manager

Susan Lowery-Mendoza provided the following report:

Upcoming Events for November include:

- The Municipal Gym roof project will continue through the end of December 2013.
- The Municipal Gym's new Center Director, Victor Johnson, will be hosting a free Turkey Basketball Shoot for youth ages five to fourteen.
- The HVAC replacement project for Casa del Prado and the theatre will continue through the end of December 2013.
- The passenger elevator modernization project is underway at Casa de Balboa.
- December Nights 2013 is scheduled for Friday, December 6 from 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 pm and Saturday, December 7, from noon – 11:00 P.M.
- Art San Diego 2013 is taking place at the BP Activity Center for the month of November.
- The Walk to Cure Diabetes will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2013.
- The Save a Life Walk will be held on Sunday, November 10, 2013.
- The Father Joe's Thanksgiving Day 5K will take place on Thursday, November 28, 2013.

Bruce Martinez, Balboa Park Operations District Manager - No report.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Dr. Hager reported November is the launch for the first-ever Balboa Park Explorer park-wide pass. It will provide general admission to 17 institutions in the Park for 365 days. This is a milestone in the history of the Park.

Balboa Park Learning Institute

Ms. Kanzawa reported the Learning Institute launched a Park-wide customer service collaborative on October 9, 2013 with 17 participating organizations. In addition, the San Diego Incubator for Innovation launched in October with 110 Innovation Fellows.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

Chairperson Kinney reminded the Committee that the General Development Plan for the Balboa Park Golf Course/Clubhouse Improvements was tabled at the September meeting, pending the sidewalk issue being resolved.

201. General Development Plan (GDP) for Balboa Park Golf Course/Clubhouse Improvements

Presenters: Mr. Todd Schmidt, project manager with Public Works, Architectural Engineering and Parks Division and Mr. Jack Gallagher, Consultant with the Dahlin Group.

Mr. Schmidt stated they are seeking approval for the Balboa Park Golf Course Clubhouse Grounds Development Plan. The current plan shows a pedestrian pathway on the north and west sides of Golf Course Drive and continuous from 26th to 28th Street. The plan proposes a class three share system, whereby bikes will share the road with automobiles. In addition, the existing pathway is preserved from 26th Street up to the Clubhouse.

The City Attorney's office stated the Golf Course Enterprise Fund could not be used to fund the pathway outside of the scope of the GDP project. The funds can only be used to construct a pathway though the project site. Every effort will be made to construct the pathway concurrently with the construction of the Club House, which is scheduled for 2016.

Comments/Questions from Members:

- Concerned about getting the sidewalk on the inside rather than on the outside of Golf Course Drive. Mr. Schmidt stated it would be difficult to do this without restructuring the Golf Course.
- It would make better sense to have traffic going east and south, rather than north and west.
- Why is the sidewalk not within the scope of the project? Mr. Schmidt stated they only a small portion the sidewalk is within scope due to the funding source.
- Will the sidewalk be incorporated into the Master Plan? Mr. Schmidt responded, yes.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED DR. HAGER/ MS. KANZAWA

A motion was made to approve the General Development Plan (GDP) for Balboa Park Golf Course/Clubhouse Improvements. Motion was approved (4-1-1) with Mr. Kahng abstaining and Mr. Steppke opposing.

Special Events

301. None.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Old Globe Way Improvements and Zoo Employee Parking Structure

Ms. Vickie Estrada updated the Committee on the proposed plan for the Zoo Employee Parking Structure and the Old Globe Way Improvements.

- The enhanced pedestrian access is included in the Master Plan.
- Pedestrian loading area will be on the south side of Old Globe Way near the theater
- Existing staff parking will be accommodated the north side.
- Results of the noise study will be discussed at the next meeting.
- This proposal was specified in the precise and master plans, thus no amendment is necessary.
- Construction will be implemented with no expense to the City.

Comments/Questions from Members:

- Can large trucks make the turn to the Old Globe at the end of the roundabout? Ms. Vickie stated yes, they plan to enlarge the radius.
- Would like the Old Globe's perspective on the project. Mr. Murphy stated he met with Zoo officials about the Old Globe's concerns regarding sound, lighting, visual impact and joint use.
- Would like the agreement to stay in place after leaders change positions.
- Parking structure is on the Zoo's leasehold and they are not required to get the committees approval.
- What is the construction schedule? Ms. Estrada stated it will hopefully be springtime. Old Globe Way will need to be completed before 2015. Parking structure construction will continue through 2016.

Public Comment: Mr. John W. Stump

- Concerned about the road-wash water that is running off roadways directly into the Bay; it is the primary pollutant in the Bay.
- Inquired about the storm water studies.
- Asked the committee to repost the traffic study for public viewing.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Fiscal Year 2013 Regional Park Improvement Fund

Mr. Jim Winter, Administrative Services Division in the Park and Recreation Department gave an overview of the Park and Recreation Department staff recommendation on allocations for the Regional Park Improvement Funds (RPIF) allocations. The RPIF recommended allocations for the Fiscal Year 2013 funds will be used in the FY15 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), include the below high priority projects:

- California Tower Seismic Retrofit, Balboa Park
- Chicano Park Comfort Station Replacement

- Mohnike Adobe and Hay Barn Restoration
- Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Drainage Improvements – Phase I

These recommendations, along with others, will be presented to the Oversight Committee on November 21, 2013 immediately after the Park and Recreation Board meeting, at the Balboa Park Club located at 2144 Pan American Road West, San Diego.

Comments/Questions from Members:

- The changes are good because it allows for projects to be funded over multiple years.
- In previous years, have you typically exceeded the \$23 million threshold? Mr. Winter stated they have been exceeding it with the first two years by \$1.7 million, which went into the regional fund.

Public Comment: Mr. John W. Stump

- Concerned about Chollas Lake being listed, on the RPIF, as TBD for FY14 Funding.
- Hoping to get support for accelerated projects that haven't been on the list.
- Believes the money should be used for improving regional parks and open space, not for maintaining historic buildings.
- Stated there's a great need for 40 percent of residents in the Chollas Lake area.

502. Balboa Park Conservancy Update

Ms. Joye Blount serves on the Balboa Park Conservancy Executive Board. She updated the committee on the Conservancy's activities and five key progress points.

1. Second quarter collaborative conversation results - Building the Park community.
2. Identification of the first signature project in support of 2015 – Work hand-in-hand with the 2015 Committee to ensure a successful Centennial. The Botanical Building is the Conservancy's first signature project.
3. Funding plans for the conservancy – There's a need for both public and private funding.
4. December Nights – Responsible for the implementation and the continued success of this tradition. This is the Conservancy's first official contract with the City.
5. Merging of Central Balboa Park and the Balboa Park Conservancy – As of July 1, 2013 Balboa Park Central and the Conservancy will be fully merged.

Ms. Blount further stated the Conservancy will now move forward to begin searching for an executive director in 2014. They are honored to serve as the steward, overseer, and advocate for the Park.

503. Cabrillo Bridge Update Caltrans

Mr. Melendez, project manager, presented the rehabilitation project for the Cabrillo Bridge. There will be major changes to the interior, exterior and deck. The deck will be closed to vehicles from January 2 – April 30, 2014, however, it will be open for pedestrians to cross to the bridge. Caltrans is 12 days behind for completion. This could potentially move the projected end of construction date to June 2014. Caltrans will set up a booth during December Nights to address the public's questions.

Comments/Questions from Members:

- Thanked Caltrans for putting a plan together that would keep traffic flowing during December Nights.
- June 2014 is not an acceptable completion date for the cultural institutions.
- Why would it cost the City more money to get the contractor to stay on schedule? Mr. Melendez stated the project wouldn't cost the City more money; however Caltrans is possibly at risk of not meeting their timeline.
- How will bicycles travel across the bridge? Mr. Melendez stated bicyclists will have to walk their bikes.
- When will the deck be open to the public? Mr. Melendez responded April 30, 2014.

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – Mr. David Kinney

No report.

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – Mr. Don Liddell

No report.

COMMMTTEE MEMBERBS REPORTS

No report.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, December 5, 2013
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager